\$EPA

Superfund Removal Program

Region 2

Cornell-Dubilier
South Plainfield, New Jersey

June 1997

UPDATE



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking immediate action to address hazardous waste contamination at the Cornell-Dubilier site located in the Hamilton Industrial Park in South Plainfield, New Jersey.

Investigations conducted by EPA indicate the presence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and heavy metals at the Cornell-Dubilier site. Further investigations found PCB contamination inside the workplaces in the Hamilton Industrial Park.

PCBs were widely used as coolants and lubricants in transformers, capacitors, and other electrical equipment. The manufacture of PCBs was stopped in the United States in 1977 because of evidence that they accumulate in the environment and may cause health problems.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has reviewed the available data and concluded that PCBs are present at levels of concern for workers at the Hamilton Industrial Park. ATSDR is part of the U.S. Public Health Service and evaluates risks to public health from environmental contamination.

BACKGROUND

The Cornell-Dubilier site occupies about 25 acres at 333 Hamilton Boulevard in South Plainfield. It is bordered by Hamilton Boule-

vard to the northwest, Spicer Avenue to the southwest, a wetlands area to the southeast, and the Bound Brook and Conrail tracks to the northeast.

Cornell-Dubilier operated from 1936 to 1962 manufacturing electronic components including capacitors. It is alleged that during its operation, Cornell- Dubilier disposed of PCB-contaminated materials and other hazardous substances at the site.

CLEANUP ACTIONS

Under the federal Superfund law, EPA can reduce or eliminate the threats to public health or the environment by conducting a short term cleanup or requiring potentially responsible parties (PRPs) to conduct a cleanup. PRPs include current and former owners or operators of the site.

- limit access to areas of known PCB contamination;
- take necessary actions to limit the movement of contaminants to the nearby Bound Brook through surface water run-off;
- pave driveways and parking areas within the industrial park.

FUTURE ACTIONS

EPA has notified the property owners of the PCB contaminants found inside buildings at the industrial park. The property owner and past operator have indicated that they are willing to work with EPA to address contamination inside the buildings. EPA is preparing a document that specifies technical requirements for cleaning the building interiors.

EPA has initiated a study to determine the potential impacts of contamination in the Bound Brook on human health and the environment. Water, soil, sediment and fish samples will be collected from the stream and analyzed for contaminants of concern including PCBs.

EPA is closely coordinating all of its activities with South Plainfield officials.

HEALTH INFORMATION

For information about the health effects of exposure to PCBs or other environmental contaminants, contact the South Plainfield Health Department at (908) 226-7634 or ATSDR at (908) 906-6931.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

EPA encourages public participation during all phases of cleanup activities. If you have questions, or would like additional information about this site, please contact the following EPA personnel:

Helen DuTeau
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA, Communications Division
290 Broadway, Floor 26
New York, New York 10007
(212) 637-3677 or toll-free at 1-800-346-5009

Eric Wilson
On-Scene Coordinator
2890 Woodbridge Avenue MS-211
Edison, New Jersey 08837
(908) 906-6991

SUPERFUND OMBUDSMAN

EPA Region 2 has designated an ombudsman as a point-of-contact for community concerns and questions about the federal Superfund program in New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. To support this effort, the agency has established a 24-hour, toll-free number that the public can call to request information, express their concerns or register complaints about Superfund. The ombudsman for EPA's Region 2 office is:

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EPA has received a plan for this work from the property owner. The work is expected to start at the end of the month and should be completed sometime in July.

FUTURE ACTIONS

EPA has notified the property owners of the PCB contaminants found inside buildings at the industrial park. The property owner and past operator have indicated that they are willing to work with EPA to address contamination inside the buildings. EPA is preparing a document that specifies technical requirements (212) 637-367 for cleaning the building interiors.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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Message: